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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] for 5 minutes.

### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN BILL EMERSON

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for recognizing me.

I just want to take this moment to share with my colleagues briefly the sense of sadness that I think that we all feel at the passing away of Congressman BILL EMERSON of Missouri. BILL EMERSON was a tremendous human being who worked extraordinarily hard on the issue of hunger, reach out in a bipartisan way, and was recognized around the world as somebody who cared deeply about everyone on the planet having a chance to have a decent meal and to live a life which has good nutrition.

Congressman EMERSON was an expert on nutrition programs here and abroad. He was also a man who cared deeply. He cared deeply about his family, about his district, about representing the people of Missouri, and about serving in the U.S. Congress. I think that as all of us watched him struggle with cancer and we watched as he came to the floor with oxygen, he came to the

floor in a wheelchair, but he was absolutely, totally dedicated to serving. He loved this House. He loved the process of dealing with issues and problems and helping people, and he loved the interaction between human beings.

I think all of us are a little poorer and all of us in the House I think on both sides of the aisle are certainly a little sadder at the loss of this fine, wonderful gentleman who passed away over the weekend. I simply wanted to share with the House those thoughts on behalf I think of all the Members of the House.

### TIME TO PASS HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have taken to the floor many times in the last few months to talk about the need to pass health insurance reform, the bill that was originally sponsored by Senators KENNEDY and KASSEBAUM on a bipartisan basis that would try to achieve significant reform in the areas of portability and preexisting conditions.

I have also been very critical of the Republican leadership in the House which continues to press an amendment or an addition, if you will, to the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill that would include medical savings accounts.

I have referred to the medical savings accounts as the poison pill that basically will bring down health insurance reform this year and could very well make it impossible to pass any health insurance reform that would address the issues of portability and preexisting conditions.

I mention this today on the floor, Mr. Speaker, because there was an excellent editorial in the Star Ledger, which

is New Jersey's largest circulation daily, which essentially addressed the issue of health insurance reform as well as medical savings accounts and pointed out how significant this legislation is in terms of providing additional health insurance for many Americans who lose their health insurance when they lose a job or because of a prior medical condition.

The editorial also details to some extent, I would say, why we should not include medical savings accounts if we ever want to see health insurance reform and to see more Americans covered by health insurance. So Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to read, if I could, some relevant sections of this editorial that was in the New Jersey Star Ledger today, because I think it really says it all in terms of where we are going or should be going with this health reform issue.

It starts out and it says:

The latest census bureau study says that 66.6 million people, one of every five Americans, will lose their medical coverage for a month or more during any 28-month period. That means a huge part of the population is always vulnerable to a major health care problem. It also makes it clear why Congress must stop playing games and pass a bill that would help protect people who get caught between jobs and lose their health coverage.

In the same time it takes for you to lose your coverage and get it back, your new insurance company can, and most likely will, stamp "prior and existing illness" on any condition you have, on anything that turns up within the first few months of the new coverage, whether it's pregnancy, cancer, heart disease, or your child's asthma—and the company will refuse to pay.

So, to the list of the chronically uninsured, you can add those who have insurance that does a fat lot of good for the health problems they face. This addresses the problem of pre-existing conditions.

The most vulnerable are people who are laid off or switch jobs, including those who switch to better jobs where the health benefits may be improved but come with a waiting period before the coverage kicks in. It's the kind of thing that can make a bigger

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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